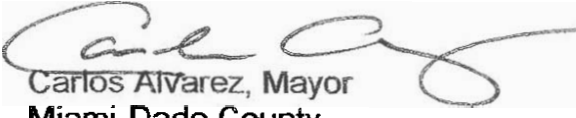




MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DATE: July 24, 2006

TO: George Burgess
County Manager

FROM: 
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: Miami-Dade Housing Agency Review

The abuse of authority and mismanagement in the Miami-Dade Housing Agency (MDHA) outlined in the Miami Herald's recent expose represent a breakdown in management, at a minimum, if not outright criminal misconduct. As so many of our residents struggle to make ends meet, amidst rising housing costs, the gross mismanagement of County funds specifically designated to help the least fortunate in our community to find homes, cannot languish in reviews and studies for another day. As the investigations and reviews of the processes and failures that have occurred over the last several years continue into the coming months, it is our responsibility to hold senior management accountable for this abdication of duty.

The negligence that has plagued the Housing Agency in the past cannot be permitted to continue in the future. To this end, I am requesting a full report of the ongoing remedies aimed at addressing this situation (including identifying those that are responsible and the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken) and your plan of action for preventing the misuse of housing resources within 30 days. As a full scale audit and criminal investigation goes forth, I am tasking you with providing me and my office with weekly status reports on all developments regarding the resolution of this egregious situation.

Let it be understood, Miami-Dade County will not serve as a haven for irresponsibility, incompetence and mismanagement. The families throughout Miami-Dade in need of affordable housing cannot continue to pay the price for the failings of senior management. The timely and absolute resolution of this state of affairs is not our option; it is our responsibility as servants to the residents of Miami-Dade County.

c: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members,
Board of County Commissioners
George Burgess, County Manager
Murray Greenberg, County Attorney
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board
Cynthia Curry, Senior Advisor to the County Manager